



Collection for Serial Prolactin, WAIKATO

At Pathlab Waikato we get requests for 'serial prolactin' to determine whether marginally elevated prolactin results are due to the stress of venepuncture or to some underlying condition. The procedure for collection is to insert a butterfly into a vein and collect 3 samples over the course of 20 minutes, flushing between each collection with saline.

This collection protocol is outside of the scope of our phlebotomists and so has historically been undertaken by Dr Stephen May the Clinical Haematologist at Pathlab. Stephen May has now retired, and we can no longer provide blood collection using this technique.

Regrettably, Pathlab Waikato is no longer able to accept requests for serial prolactin collections. We continue to provide the test in our laboratories but not the collection.

We suggest that alternative arrangements are made for blood collection if serial prolactin testing is required.

Please note if patients are referred to the Medical Daycare Unit at Waikato Hospital for this collection, an appointment must be made in advance.

John Woodford
Lead of Speciality, Biochemistry
07 858 0795 ext. 6828

Dr Tim Sutton
Pathologist
07 578 7073 ext. 6513

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receive a copy of this clinical update.**